

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Selected Events January – June 2010

NEWS FROM THE CONSULATE



U.S. Diplomat Offers First-Hand Account of the Situation in Afghanistan


June 28, 2010. At a lunchtime discussion program with key contacts on June 28 former Duesseldorf Consul General Matt Boyse, currently assigned to the U.S. Mission in Kabul, gave a first-hand assessment of the current challenges of the NATO alliance in Afghanistan.

Representatives from media, business, politics (including the NRW Interior Minister and Düsseldorf chief of police), and culture attended the program hosted by Consul General Janice Weiner at her residence. Describing the ongoing fight of the Afghan government and the Taliban for the support of the Afghan people, Boyse emphasized the importance of institution building and reconstruction efforts to make the country resistant to extremist positions. This aspect was also the focus of Matt Boyse's interview with Rheinische Post foreign affairs head Matthias Beermann (published on June 30).



Ambassador Murphy's Visit in Duesseldorf And Cologne Includes High Level Political Meetings And Discussion with Students

June 16-17, 2010. The second part of Ambassador Murphy's weeklong visit to NRW on June 16-17 was highlighted by meetings with acting Minister President Juergen Ruettgens at the Chancellery and with SPD leader Hannelore Kraft where the situation in NRW after the elections and prospects for bilateral relations were discussed.

The visit also included a luncheon hosted by the Chamber of Commerce in Cologne as well as a roundtable at West German Television in Cologne with the station's foreign and current affairs editors. A subsequent meeting with the Board of Directors of the Amerika Haus e.V. NRW in Cologne and a public lecture arranged by the Amerika Haus at the Chamber of Commerce offered further platforms to discuss bilateral relations and to explain President Obama's views on a number of issues, particularly on Afghanistan. Finally, the Ambassador engaged students from different schools at a town hall meeting hosted by the Rheinische Post in Duesseldorf on June 17. The Ambassador's extended visit in NRW was widely covered by the press, with numerous articles appearing in the regional media. |  [Photos and Video on our Facebook page](#) | [Rheinische Post: Murphy - Obamas Mann in Berlin](#) | [Rheinische Post: "Studiert! Engagiert Euch! Träumt!"](#) | [Read Ambassador Murphy's Speech in Cologne](#)



Ambassador Murphy Advances Bilateral Relations In Westphalia

June 14 -15, 2010. Ambassador Philip Murphy visited Westphalia on June 14-15, engaging audiences at City Hall and at a variety of regional organizations. In Bielefeld, he gave opening remarks at a five-day conference on economic relations entitled "[Eastern Westphalia Meets USA](#)" hosted by the regional Chamber of Commerce. He was joined by

German Ambassador to the U.S. Klaus Scharioth, and both speakers underscored the solidity and further prospects of transatlantic trade and commerce. At a subsequent luncheon, the Ambassador discussed trends in German society, especially German youth, and their implications with Bielefeld sociologist Wilhelm Heitmeyer and other university faculty members. Together with Bielefeld Lord Mayor Pit Clausen, Ambassador Murphy then visited the [Bethel medical and care facilities in Bielefeld](#) where he was impressed to find out about the manifold cooperation of Bethel with organizations in the United States. A dinner/discussion with business leaders concluded the day-long visit in Bielefeld. On June 15, Ambassador Murphy opened a major international [Nano Bio Europe conference](#) in Muenster together with Lord Mayor Markus Lewe who afterwards formally greeted his guest at the City's historic Peace Hall where the Ambassador signed the Golden Book. A luncheon for business and political leaders and a town hall meeting with students from area schools hosted by Westfaelische Nachrichten concluded the second day of the Ambassador visit in Westphalia. |  [Photos and video clips on our Facebook page](#) | [Ruhrnachrichten: US-Botschafter Murphy mag Muenster](#)" | [Westfälische Nachrichten „ Der ist ja richtig cool!"](#) | [Interview Westfälische Nachrichten: "US-Botschafter Murphy über die Deutschen: Ihr solltet stolz sein"](#)

Consul General Delivers Commencement Speech At EBC College In Duesseldorf

June 10, 2010. On June 10, Consul General Janice Weiner gave the commencement address at the [European University of Applied Sciences \(EBC\) in Duesseldorf](#). On the occasion, the EBC celebrated its first year as a fully accredited college. In her address, she discussed the value of an international education and international exchange programs, drawing on her own experiences as an exchange student in Belgium and as U.S. diplomat in East Berlin and Ankara. Learning foreign languages, learning to adjust to new environments and also developing a degree of resilience are essential prerequisites for a career in a global world, Consul General Weiner said.



Students from Georgia visit Consulate in Duesseldorf

June 1, 2010. A group of students and teachers from the Darlington School in Rome, Georgia, visited the Consulate on Tuesday, June 1 to speak with Consul Christopher Grossman about diplomacy and the Consulate's operations in NRW. The 10th graders are part of an annual exchange between the Darlington School and St. Ursula Gymnasium in Duesseldorf. For most of the students, this was their first trip to Germany and for many their first trip outside of the U.S. The students asked questions about how the Consulate functions and about the U.S. relationship with Germany. Grossman described for them the way that Mission Germany is set up and talked about the changing face of diplomacy in the 21st century. The student group, which will remain in Germany for two weeks taking part in classes at St. Ursula and visiting landmarks in NRW, is an example of particularly active bilateral school exchange programs.



Jerome Ringo Discusses Impact of Oil Spill

May 27, 2010. Environmental expert and president of Apollo Alliance Jerome Ringo discussed current climate change issues in Bonn and Wuppertal on May 27. During a roundtable discussion at Deutsche Telekom in Bonn and a public lecture at the environmental think tank ["Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy"](#) Ringo called the current oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico a game changer that clearly demonstrates the urgency to diversify the energy portfolio. The charismatic speaker laid out a



vision about what needs to be done to fight climate change and to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil. He strongly emphasized the need to make energy more affordable and to invest in green technology. These topics were also addressed during an interview with "Focus Online" and a live interview with national public breakfast TV at WDR the following morning. | [Focus Online Interview](#) | [Photos on our Facebook page](#) | [Videoclip](#)



Consul General Launches New Duesseldorf-San Francisco Nonstop Flight

May 12, 2010 Consul General Janice Weiner was invited to speak at a press conference at Duesseldorf airport on May 12 that launched a new Air Berlin direct flight connection between Duesseldorf and San Francisco. She noted that transatlantic relations, especially those between North Rhine-Westphalia and the Pacific Coast, would greatly benefit from the new connection. Air Berlin Board member Christoph Debus pointed out that the new flight was the fifth U.S. destination from Duesseldorf making Duesseldorf airport a key hub for flights to the U.S. Airport director Christoph Blume added that San Francisco was a particularly attractive destination which welcomed 18 million visitors every year. | [Rheinische Post article](#) (in German)



Students In Siegen Learn About U.S. Exchange Opportunities

May 5, 2010. On May 5, the [German-American Association Siegerland-Wittgenstein](#) hosted an information event on high school exchange opportunities in the U.S. Consulate's Education USA specialist Petra Spitz presented an overview entitled: "Ways to the U.S. – High School Year - Au Pair – Internship - Study". Her presentation was complemented by first-hand accounts by two former prize winners of the annual essay contest of the association, who are now students in Giessen. Both spent a year at a high school in the United States. A third student from Giessen described her experiences as an AuPair for one year in Arlington VA. All three students were very positive about their internships and gave an impression how their experiences had influenced their personal and professional life. | [Education USA](#)



U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary Of Education In Duesseldorf

May 3, 2010. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education Glenn Cummings visited Duesseldorf on May 3 at the invitation of the North Rhine-Westphalia School Ministry. He had had a meeting in Washington, D.C. in February with Minister-President Juergen Ruettgens and on that occasion had been invited to visit NRW to talk about vocational education. Mr. Cummings first visited the [Franz Juergens Berufskolleg](#) to speak with students and teachers about vocational training and education and later had a meeting with [State Secretary Guenter Winands](#) to discuss the NRW vocational education system. Mr. Cummings was particularly interested in the public-private partnerships that NRW has created to further the vocational training in the state. | [U.S. Department of Education > Office of Vocational and Adult Education](#)



U.S. Diplomat Engages Adenauer-Fellows In Dialogue On Afghanistan

May 1, 2010. At the invitation of the [Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation \(KAS\)](#) in Wesseling, U.S. Embassy Deputy Press Spokesman Mitchell Moss explicated the Afghanistan strategy of the Obama-Administration on May 1. His lecture on "The Afghanistan Strategy, Germany and the Future of NATO" was part of a foreign policy weekend seminar for KAS scholarship holders. Moss discussed

what's at stake in Afghanistan and explained the emphasis of the new strategy on providing security, protecting the Afghan population and preventing the country from turning into a terrorist stronghold again. He praised Germany's contribution to the Afghanistan mission as the 3rd largest provider of troops. | [U.S. Policy towards Afghanistan](#)



Consul General Visits Muenster

April 29, 2010. On April 29, Consul General Janice Weiner spent the day in Muenster, first [calling on Lord Mayor Markus Lewe at City Hall](#). At an interview with political editor Claudia Kramer-Santel from Westfaelische Nachrichten she pointed out the strong U.S.-NRW economic and trade relations and the importance of strengthening the transatlantic relations through dialogue with the young generation. Consul General Weiner also had a meeting with Professor Martin Korda, president of the [German-American Association in Muenster](#). At all her meetings the CG underscored the importance of the Westphalia region for the Consulate's outreach activities. | [Westfaelische Nachrichten, 4/30/2010 \(article in German\)](#) | [Visit our Facebook page for more photos](#)



Continuing German-American People-to-People Exchanges in NRW

April 23, 2010. On April 23, U.S. Consulate Duesseldorf hosted a conference for German-American sister cities and German-American clubs in NRW. In her greeting address, U. S. Consul General Janice Weiner emphasized the importance of close ties between German and American cities and thanked the participants for all their efforts and personal engagement. Thirty-two participants discussed success, problems and difficulties of their exchange experiences and activities. Vice Consul Amy Baskin from U.S. Consulate Frankfurt Visa section gave an overview on the [Visa Waiver Program](#), [ESTA](#) and the various [visa categories](#), which are most applicable for participants of exchange programs. | [Sister-city partnerships in North Rhine-Westphalia](#) | [German American Clubs and Organisations in NRW](#)



Consul General Participates in International Day at International School of Düsseldorf

April 24, 2010. The [International School of Duesseldorf \(ISD\)](#) hosted its annual international day April 24, organized entirely by volunteers. It included a big U.S. booth that Consul General Janice Weiner helped staff. Dressed to match the U.S. booth's baseball theme, U.S. Commercial Consul Richard Kanter also participated, as did the UK Consul General and the Canadian Consul. Booths from many other countries represented at the school featured national foods. A colorful, festive and popular annual community-building event, the festival drew an estimated 2,000 visitors, based on a theme of diversity and tolerance that ISD Principal Neil McWilliam called a model for the future of the world; children from 47 countries, most in national dress, marched in a parade with their countries' flags.



U.S. Diplomat as "Witness to History" - Consul General Weiner Speaks to Students at International School in Neuss

April 19, 2010. Consul General Weiner spoke April 19 to a group of 35 high school students at the [International School of Rhein/Neuss \(ISR\)](#) as part of their "Remarkable People" lecture series. Focusing on a remarkable time that is history for these students, the CG talked about her posting in

the GDR and East Germany from the point of view of a U.S. diplomat at the time, including impressions of what life was like living with the Stasi, and the fall of the Wall. | [The Consulate's MeetUS School Outreach Program](#)



Consul General At Seminar On U.S.-NRW Relations In Duesseldorf

April 13, 2010. "North Rhine-Westphalia and its Transatlantic Partner" was the title of a seminar on April 13 hosted by the [Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation](#) at Villa Horion in Duesseldorf. A panel of transatlantic experts including Angela Freimuth, Vice-President of the NRW State Parliament, AmCham chairman Alexander Schroeder-Frerkes, Naumann-Foundation vice chair Axel Hoffmann and Friedrich Wagner, NRW senior foreign trade official, and U.S. analyst Andrew Denison joined Consul General Janice Weiner in individual presentations and a concluding panel covering the broad spectrum of economic, business and cultural ties between NRW and the U.S. Consul General Weiner stressed the value of "people to people" connections represented, for example, by the activities of the many sister city partnerships and German-American clubs in the state. Moderated by [NRW.TV](#) journalist Roger Horne, the panelists agreed that reaching out to the successor generation is an important challenge which requires new approaches in order to preserve the close bilateral partnership in the future. | [more about this event \(in German\)](#)



Consul Speaks to Delegates at Model United Nations Conference in Muenster

April 5 - 8, 2010. Consul Christopher Grossman was the featured speaker at the opening ceremony of the [Model UN conference at the University of Muenster](#) on Monday, April 5. The annual conference brings together students from around the world to do a model UN simulation for a week at the university. In his opening speech on "Crises in Modern Diplomacy," Grossman spoke to the almost 200 student delegates about the new post-Cold War paradigm of diplomacy in the 21st century, highlighting the role of the nation-state in the city where the concept of the nation-state was born with the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648. Grossman returned to the conference on Thursday, April 8, to give a longer presentation as part of the conference's "Meet the Experts" event. At this event, he spoke with more than 75 student delegates on the subject of "U.S. Politics in Times of Crisis," focusing on U.S. reactions to international crises.



Crazy for the Storm - Norman Ollestad read from his memoir

March 20, 2010. On March 20, Norman Ollestad read from his 2009 bestseller "Crazy For The Storm: A Memoir Of Survival" at Cologne's "Kulturkirche" to an enthusiastic crowd of 500. Norman Ollestad's memoir recounts his childhood right in the midst of California surfing culture and competitive downhill skiing, his relationship with his charismatic father he both idolized and feared — and the unbelievable story of his survival after a plane crash that killed his father. German actor Wotan Wilke Mohring read selected texts from the German edition, just published this spring. | [Norman Ollestad's website](#) | [!\[\]\(6059a5aa8b4ca7bb793408023d6c6e42_img.jpg\) Connect with the author on facebook](#) | [Watch Ollestad talk about his book](#)



Berlin Economics Section Head Visits NRW

March 18-19, 2010. Bob Pollard, Minister-Counselor for Economics at the Embassy in Berlin, visited NRW on March 18-19 spending time in Essen, Herten, Düsseldorf and Neuss. He spoke about various issues including the economic crisis, environmental policy and counter-terrorism with 12th and 13th year students at the Essen-Werden Gymnasium. In Essen, Pollard also gave an interview to the Westdeutsche Allgemeine

Zeitung covering the same wide range of topics. | [Read the interview \(in German\)](#) | [Visit our Facebook page for photos and videoclips of his trip to NRW](#)



Patti Smith Fascinates Audience in Cologne

March 19, 2010. A large crowd of over 800 fans came to Cologne's Tanzbrunnen to see and hear American singer, writer and cultural icon Patti Smith read from her autobiographical book "Just Kids." The evening, a highlight of the lit.COLOGNE literature festival, provided an opportunity to appreciate and enjoy several facets of Smith's fascinating personality: the unassuming candor of her writing, the magic of her reading and singing (accompanying herself with the guitar), and the sobriety of her political and cultural perspectives.

| [Interview: „Das Beste liegt noch vor mir“](#) | [Listen to Patti Smith unplugged in Cologne](#) | [Articles in: Der Westen.de](#) | [Koelnische Rundschau](#) | [Koelner Stadtanzeiger](#) | [Die Zeit](#) | [FAZ](#) |



World Premiere in Cologne of Martin Cruz Smith's new novel

March 13, 2010. The first public reading from [Martin Cruz Smith's](#) new novel took place in Cologne on March 13 in the framework of [Lit.Cologne](#), one of Europe's largest literary festivals. The book titled "[Three Stations](#)" ("Die Goldene Meile" in German) will be published in the U.S. later this year. Some 300 people participated in this sold-out event at Cologne Police Headquarters. The predominantly young audience, obviously

familiar with Smith's novels, appreciated the American writer's modesty, fine humor, and illuminating comments about the creative process and the publishing world. After the reading long lines for the book signing testified to the author's popularity among the German readership.



Consul General Discusses Integration USA at Petersberg Convention

March 12, 2010. Consul General Janice Weiner participated as a panelist in the March 11-12 "Petersberg Convention" hosted by NRW Minister President Juergen Ruetters. This second annual conference pulled together a wide range of players – politicians, business stakeholders, NGO representatives, media, academics, etc. – to discuss broad-brush themes, such as the post-crisis economy, integration, values and others. Keynote speakers were Luxembourg PM Junckers and elder statesman Klaus von Dohnanyi, complemented by three well-attended panels. CG

Weiner participated with three other guests in a panel on integration and diversity, where she provided input on how the U.S. has approached the issues – its pluses and minuses. The moderated discussion (with Prof. Tibi from Tuebingen, Member of European Parliament Elmar Brok and Olympic fencing champion Britta Heidemann) was followed by questions from the audience. | [Petersberg Convention](#) | [Photo Gallery](#)



Explaining the Health Care Reform Debate in the U.S.

March 2 – 3, 2010. Robert Rich, Director of the Institute of Government at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, reviewed the current debate on health care reform in the U.S. with journalists and health experts at program events on March 2 and 3. He first reviewed the issue at interviews conducted at weekly Rheinischer Merkur in Bonn and the

daily Rheinische Post in Duesseldorf. The next day, Rich gave a PowerPoint Presentation at the Institute for Health Economics at Cologne University and explained in detail the factors that play a role in far-reaching health care/insurance reform, and which he argued make it very difficult to find a broad-based political solution. | [White House > Issues > Health Care](#) | [Health Care Reform.gov](#)



Deputy Chief of Mission Engages Business Leaders in Cologne and Duesseldorf

March 2, 2010. Embassy Berlin Deputy Chief of Mission Greg Delawie spent March 2 in North Rhine-Westphalia, visiting U.S. exhibitors at the [International Hardware Fair](#) at the Cologne trade fair complex, where he discussed export prospects for American companies in Europe and

around the globe. At a subsequent luncheon hosted by Consul General Janice Weiner he had a chance to meet business leaders from the larger Duesseldorf region and to discuss with them the prospects for economic recovery, regional politics and the future of the transatlantic economy. Finally, the DCM called on the International Trade experts at the NRW Economics Ministry in Duesseldorf.



Dialogue on "Global Zero" In Bonn

February 23, 2010. Lewis Dunn, Senior Vice President at Science Applications International Corporation, engaged important audiences on current disarmament issues at three program events on February 23 in Bonn. He started with a background interview with Thomas Gutschker, foreign affairs chief with national weekly "Rheinischer Merkur," followed by a luncheon and an expert level lecture/discussion program at the non-

profit organization [Bonn International Center for Conversion \(BICC\)](#), moderated by senior researcher Jerry Sommer. All programs focused on the uncertainties and opportunities of the global nuclear landscape. The programs, attended by representatives of the media and politics as well as disarmament experts and researchers at BIIC, provided a timely update on what to expect from the Obama administration regarding the upcoming nuclear posture review and the non-proliferation review conference taking place in May.



U.S. Speaker Reviews First Year of Obama Administration in Duesseldorf and Bonn

February 10, 2010. At three program events on February 10, Cathleen Fisher, Executive Director of the Washington office of the [Alexander-von-Humboldt Foundation](#), assessed the first year of the Obama-Administration and the prospects of the upcoming midterm elections. In

Duesseldorf she gave an interview to Rheinische Post and then spoke at a roundtable discussion at the NRW Landtag, moderated by Vice President Angela Freimuth. In Bonn she addressed an audience of 140 at a lecture event at the "Haus der Geschichte" in Bonn, co-sponsored by the Deutsche Atlantische Gesellschaft. Fisher pointed out that the accomplishments of the Obama-Administration must be seen against the background of the extremely difficult situation at the

start of his presidency and noted the Administration's new tone of engagement and multilateralism.



Ambassador Engages Students At School Visits In Bochum And Herten

February 9, 2010. On February 9, [Ambassador Philip Murphy](#) traveled to Bochum and Herten to engage 500 students in discussions on U.S. foreign policy and the civil rights movement in the U.S. Responding to questions from students at the [Pestalozzi Realschule in Bochum](#), the Ambassador noted the great significance of the German-American partnership in dealing with major global issues. At the [Rosa Parks Schule in Herten](#) the focus of the discussion was on the legacy of civil rights leader Rosa Parks. On the occasion, the students performed scenes relating to Rosa Parks, and the Ambassador congratulated the recipient of the school's first Rosa Parks Award. At the end of his presentation, the Ambassador encouraged the students to have "the audacity of hope" to fulfill their personal dreams. Concluding his one-day visit to NRW, the Ambassador gave an interview to "Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" on U.S. foreign policies with special emphasis on Afghanistan. | [article in Hertener Allgemeine](#) | [article in WAZ](#) | [photos and videoclips are available on our facebook page](#)



Ambassador Murphy Praises German Soldiers in Afghanistan

February 9, 2010. Concluding his visit to NRW on February 9, Ambassador Murphy was interviewed by "WAZ Media Group's" foreign correspondent Dr. Richard Kiessler. The interview focused on the topics discussed during the Munich Security conference. Drawing on his recent visit to Afghanistan he showed himself impressed by the German command in the North and the emerging signs of stability and progress. | [Read the interview](#) (in German)



International Study Fair at Cologne University

February 9, 2010. Over 2,500 students attended the annual all-day youth fair "[Wege ins Ausland](#)" at Cologne University on February 9 and learned about opportunities for academic study or internships in the United States. EducationUSA Specialist Petra Spitz provided students with comprehensive information about the application process, visa regulations, and scholarship options while Consulate intern Paula Armstrong drew on her first-hand experience as a student at Brown University in Providence, RI to provide insight into American college life. Students expressed strong interest in living, learning, and working in the United States and appreciated the chance to have their questions answered in-person by Consulate staff. | [Education USA Information](#)



Consulate Supports "America Day" at Essen High School

February 3, 2010. Consul Chris Grossman and interns Paula Armstrong and Matthew Porter participated in a special "America Day" at the [Maria Waechtler Gymnasium in Essen](#) on February 03. Grossman engaged more than 100 12thgraders in a discussion on Globalization, U.S. foreign policy and domestic issues such as health care reform and gun control. Consulate interns Paula Armstrong and Matthew Porter visited five different classes of 9th graders on "America Day" discussing and answering questions about America's image in the media, American high schools and lifestyle. | [more photos on our facebook page](#) | ["Meet US" School Outreach Program](#)



Ambassador Murphy Meets New York Philharmonic at Cologne Concert

January 28, 2010. Ambassador Philip Murphy and his wife Tammy attended the January 28 concert of the New York Philharmonic at the Philharmonie in Cologne and then co-hosted a reception/dinner for the artists and specially invited guests. The audience celebrated the performance of the

orchestra under the new music director Alan Gilbert, which also featured baritone Thomas Hampson intoning a poem by Walt Whitman to the music of American composer John Adams. In his remarks at the reception/dinner, which was a "joint production" of the Cologne Philharmonic, the Ambassador and NY Philharmonic board member Peter Jungen, Ambassador Murphy expressed his appreciation for the close and varied German-American cultural relations and artistic exchange and was impressed that the New York Philharmonic considered Cologne "their home away from home" with the most performances of the orchestra outside New York. | [More photos on our facebook page](#)



Security Expert Engages Key Contacts in Dialogue on Counterterrorism

January 26 & 27, 2010. At program events in Meckenheim and Duesseldorf, [Matthew Levitt, director of the Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy](#), engaged key audiences in a focused dialogue on counterterrorism. On January 26

he met with experts at the Landeskriminalamt in Duesseldorf and, the following day, with an expert group at the Bundeskriminalamt (Federal Office of Criminal Investigation) in Meckenheim near Bonn. Concluding his tour, he led a thought-provoking discussion on counterterrorism at a luncheon event hosted by Consul General Janice Weiner on January 27 for members of the NRW Forum of the German Council on Foreign Relations. At all program events, Levitt explained the Obama administration's approach to counterterrorism and emphasized in particular the importance of long-term, comprehensive strategies aimed at preventing and countering radicalization. In turn, his interlocutors offered German perspectives on counterterrorism which resulted in a productive exchange of avenues of transatlantic cooperation re. this challenge. | [U.S. Dept. of State > Counterterrorism](#)



U.S. Scholar Assesses Results Of The Copenhagen Climate Summit

January 22, 2010. At a lecture at [Deutsche Welle](#) in Bonn co-organized by the [Amerika Haus NRW e.V.](#) on January 22, [Adil Najam, Professor of Global Public Policy at Boston University](#), offered a sophisticated Power Point presentation on the results of the Copenhagen Climate summit

which he had attended. A leading member of the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) – the organization was awarded the Peace Nobel Prize together with Al Gore in 2007 - Najam presented a long-term perspective arguing that climate policies are essentially also development policies. In his view Copenhagen was an important step in the difficult process to develop a truly global understanding of the implications of global warming which mostly harms the poorest countries. | [America.gov > Global Challenges: Energy & Environment](#)



Consul General on German-American Relations at NRW.TV

January 21, 2010. In an interview broadcast by [NRW.TV](#) Consul General Janice Weiner assessed the first year of the Obama-Administration and the state of the close bilateral relationship. As the only guest of the 25-minute talk show "Horne Live" Consul General Weiner responded to questions from Roger Horne, the former Washington correspondent for

n.tv, on the U.S. commitment and international cooperation to help Haiti and welcomed German efforts in Afghanistan. She also gave examples of the close cultural and economic ties between the U.S. and North Rhine-Westphalia and talked about the role and activities of the Consulate General Duesseldorf. | [Watch the interview at NRW.TV's Videoarchive](#)



Mid-Year Seminar for American CBYX Participants In Bonn

January 21, 2010. The 75 U.S. participants in the [CBYX](#) conducted their mid-year seminar at the headquarters of [InWent](#), the German "Capacity Building International Organization" in charge of the bilateral exchange program. As part of the seminar, a group of exchangees related experiences they had gained at a week-long International Model United Nations Conference on climate change in Bonn. As a result, they said,

they understood much better the challenge of integrating different views and interests at international conferences. The young Americans noted that they considered their time in Germany rewarding and that they tried to get actively involved in their host communities.



Consul General Guest Of Honor At Fulbright Alumni Winter Ball

January 16, 2010. 250 alumni from all over Germany travelled to Bad Godesberg near Bonn to attend the [German Fulbright Alumni organization's](#) annual meeting, culminating with their Winter Ball at the historic Godesburg. The event was an occasion where German and American participants in past and current programs reminisced about their experiences and caught up with old friends and

acquaintances. They also used the get-together to plan new regional and national events for 2010. Consul General Janice Weiner was guest of honor at the ball and was pleased to learn that the alumni considered their exchange year(s) in the United States a positive, life-changing experience. | [Fulbright Exchange Programs](#) | [Education USA](#)



AmCham's New Year's Reception Underscores Importance of Bilateral Business Relations

January 15, 2010. Consul General Janice Weiner and Commercial Consul Richard Kanter were among the approx. 400 representatives of the business and government community who attended the January 15 New Year's reception of the [American Chamber of Commerce](#) in Duesseldorf.

In their welcome remarks, Lord Mayor Dirk Elbers and AmCham President Alexander Schroeder-Frerkes noted the excellent relations between U.S. business and NRW companies. They spoke as well to the urgent need for help in Haiti, and used the occasion to raise money for relief efforts. | [U.S. Relief Efforts](#) | [Find out how you can help](#) | [Clinton Bush Haiti Fund](#)



High School Students Discuss President Obama's First Year In Office

January 13, 2010. On January 13, students from the [Kopernikus Gymnasium in Ratingen](#) visited the Consulate where Consul Christopher Grossman explained to the group the operations of the Consulate and discussed major initiatives during the first year of the Obama administration. The students had a variety of questions ranging from inquiries about the state of the U.S. economy to health insurance reform. They also wanted to talk about the worldwide financial crisis and the relationship between the U.S. and China.



Resuming Consulate's Series of Study USA Workshops

January 12, 2010. Education USA specialist Petra Spitz was one of three experts at a public exchanges event hosted by Duesseldorf University's International Office on January 12. Ms. Spitz gave a presentation on how to apply at American colleges, visa regulations and procedures and financial support by American universities. Other speakers at the event offered complementary information about financial support available through German sources and test requirements. In addition, Duesseldorf psychology professor Ute Bayen, who lived and taught at the University of North Carolina for over a decade, gave pertinent examples of how studying in the U.S. benefits the students' professional careers in Europe. | [Education USA > Information on Studying in the U.S.](#)



Discussing The Media And Popular Opinion In the U.S. At Duesseldorf University

January 11, 2010. On January 11, Consul Christopher Grossman discussed the role that the media plays in shaping public opinion in U.S. political campaigns at a lecture event [hosted by political scientist Thomas Unterberg at Duesseldorf University](#). Grossman presented several clips of political ads and television news shows to the students and led the class in discussing how political actors use the media to influence the opinion of the voters. The debate with the students focused in large part on the health insurance reform in the U.S., especially on poll numbers for the proposed reform legislation. | [White House > Issues > Health Care | Health Care Reform](#)



Engaging Students On The Bilateral Economic Partnership

January 8, 2010. At a program at the consulate on January 8, program specialist Bernd Herbert discussed the economic, trade and investment relations between the United States and Germany with students and faculty from Hamline University, currently studying at the Cologne Business School. Using data from the Mission's ["Benchmarking Success"](#) he explained that despite difficulties posed by the global economic and financial crisis, the deep integration between both countries continues to generate significant prosperity and forms a stable platform for recovery.

